CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A decoy apparatus comprising:

a body housing having a front end and a rear end;

a head assembly interconnected with the front end of the body housing, the head assembly comprising a head and a neck;

connection means for connecting the head assembly to the body housing which allows for movement of the head by wind; and

counterbalancing means connected to the neck for balancing the head assembly with respect to the body housing at the connection means.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the front end of the body housing includes a throat area, and the connection means comprises a hook extending from an upper portion of the throat area and a loop located on an upper surface of the neck, the loop being positioned on the hook to hang the head assembly from the body housing.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the front end of the body housing includes a throat area and the connection means comprises a pivot pin extending through corresponding apertures in opposite sides of the throat area of the body housing and the neck, the pivot pin pivotally connecting the head assembly to the body housing.

4. ~~The apparatus of claim 2 wherein the counterbalancing means comprises a counterweight interconnected with the neck for balancing the head assembly in a neutral position.~~

5. The apparatus of claim ~~4~~ wherein the ~~counterweight~~ counterbalancing weight is connected to the neck by an arm.

6. The apparatus of claim ~~5~~ wherein the ~~counterweight~~ counterbalancing weight is positioned within the body housing.

7. The apparatus of claim 1 further comprising a support stake having a upper end and a lower end, the upper end of the support stake extending into the body housing through a torso aperture in the body housing.

8. The support stake of claim 7 further comprising a spring attached to the upper end of the support stake against a seat attached to a upper portion of the body housing within the body housing to allow for the additional movement of the decoy in a plurality of directions.

9. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein a sheet of plastic is attached to the body housing which can be blown up by wind to simulate the strutting of feathers.

10. A decoy apparatus comprising:

a hollow body housing having a front and a rear end, the front end of the body housing having a throat area;

a head assembly comprising a head and a neck interconnected with the front end of the body housing;

a tail interconnected with the rear end of the body housing;

first connecting means for connecting the head to the body housing with the neck extending partially into the body housing through the throat area;

a first counterweight interconnected with the neck by a first arm attached to the neck, the first counterweight balancing the head assembly;

second connecting means for connecting the tail to the body housing; and

a second counterweight interconnected with the tail by a second arm attached to the tail, the second counterweight positioned within the body, the second counterweight balancing the tail.

11. The apparatus of claim 11 wherein the first connecting means comprises a hook located on an upper portion of the throat area of the body housing and a loop connected to an upper side of the neck, the loop positioned on the hook to hang the head assembly from the body housing and allow for both horizontal and vertical movement of the head assembly with respect to the body housing.

12. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the ~~second~~ connecting means for connecting the tail to the body comprises a rear hook extending from the rear end of the body housing and a rear loop attached to the tail, the rear loop positioned on the rear hook to hang the tail from the body housing and allow for both horizontal and vertical movement of the tail with respect to the body housing.

13. The apparatus of claim 12 wherein the ~~first connecting means~~ connection means for interconnecting the head assembly to the body housing is a pivot assembly comprising a pivot pin extending through corresponding apertures in opposite sides ~~of the throat area~~ of the body housing and the neck, the pivot pin pivotally connecting the head assembly to the body housing and allowing for movement of the head assembly relative to the body housing from a slight breeze.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the ~~second~~ connecting means for connecting the tail to the body is a pivot assembly comprising a second pivot pin extending through corresponding apertures in opposite sides of the rear end of the body housing and the tail, the second pivot pin pivotally connecting the tail to the body housing and allowing for movement of the tail relative to the body housing even from a slight breeze.

15. A method for using an decoy to attract or scare away animals comprising the steps of:

forming a hollow decoy housing with an open front end;

attaching a hook to the housing above the open front end;

forming a head and neck assembly;

attaching a loop to the neck;

attaching a counterweight, by means of an arm, to the head and neck assembly to balance the head and neck assembly in a neutral position;

hanging the head and neck assembly from the housing by placing the loop on the hook;

placing the decoy at a desired location to attract animals; and

allowing the wind to move the head and neck assembly of the decoy.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising the step of interconnecting the decoy with a support stake having a pointed edge for insertion into the ground to position the decoy at a desired location.

17. The method of claim 16 wherein the decoy is a fowl and the method further comprises attaching a plastic sheet decorated to resemble feathers to the housing such that wind will blow up the feathers to create the effect of strutting.

18. The method of claim 16 wherein the decoy is an animal and the method further comprises attaching a rear hook to a rear end of the body housing, forming a tail, attaching a rear loop to the tail, and hanging the tail from the body housing by placing the loop on the hook.

19. The method of claim 18 further comprising the step of attaching a second counterweight to the tail by means of an arm.

20. The method of claim 16 further comprising the steps of attaching a spring to a upper portion of the support stake, attaching a seat to an upper part of the body housing within the body housing, and placing the upper part of the support stake inside the body housing through an aperture in a bottom portion of the body housing.